

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2016

Call to Order: Senator Blevins, Chair, called the DVCC Quarterly meeting to order.

Introductions: In attendance were the following DVCC members: Senator Patricia Blevins, Secretary Carla Benson-Green (DSCYF), Laura Graham, Esq. (CLASI), Senator Catherine Cloutier, Gretchen Gilchrest, Esq., Commissioner Robert Coupe (DOC), Judge Carl Danberg (CCP), Kathy Jennings (DOJ) for Attorney General Matthew Denn, Diane Glenn (Dover PD-VS), Linda Carmichael (Superior Court) for President Judge Jan Jurden, Secretary James Mosley (DDHS), Chief Judge Michael Newell (Family Court), Dawn Williams for Chief Defender Brendan O'Neill (OCD), Adrienne Owen (DSP). Also in attendance were Sharon Merriman-Nai (CDHS), Erin Connelly (DOC), Rosemary Martinez (Abriendo Puertas), Shamlia McLaurin (Catholic Charities), Maureen Monagle (CJC), Nancy McGee (SAND), Judge Jennifer Ranji (Family Court), Deianna Tyree (Child Inc.) and DVCC Staff: Ellie Torres, Natasha Smith, Aimee String, and Pat Kwetkauskie.

Minutes: A motion to approve the May 9, 2016 minutes was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

VAWA Vote: The total deposits made to the Domestic Violence Fund for July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016 period: \$95, 211.00. This amount is 1.3% less than the previous year. The VAWA Implementation Committee would like to recommend this year's funding **not** be made competitive. The Committee is recommending one-more year to support legal services provided by CLASI and DVLS.

A motion was made for funds to go to CLASI and DVLS for one more year. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Delaware's FFY2013 STOP VAWA Formula Grant award was \$869,733.00.
The CJC had a balance of reverted funds in the Law Enforcement Category.
The VAWA Implementation Committee is recommending \$42,500.00 be allocated to the Georgetown Police Department to support the creation of a new position. Funding would be used to support a dedicated Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Investigator for the Georgetown Police Department.
The \$42,500.00 under this recommendation would support the first 6 months (10/1/16-3/31/17) to start this position.

The Committee's recommendation would obligate continued funding in the following amounts:

- \$52,848.00 under FFY2014 STOP (4/1/17-9/30/17)
- \$50,741.00 under FFY2015 STOP (10/1/17-3/31/18)
- With intent to continue a full year under the State's FFY2016 STOP (pending award by OVW).

The CJC received a 2nd extension on the federal award. The federal end date is now 6/30/17.

A motion was made for the funds to support the creation of a new position at Georgetown Police Department. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Presentation – Elderly and Domestic Violence in Delaware

Sharon Merriman-Nai, MC, Associate Scientist from the Center of Drug and Health Studies, University of Delaware, provided a presentation on Crime, Abuse and Neglect in Older Delawareans. The presentation included background information as well as Delaware specific data analysis from a variety of sources.

Family Court Enhancement Project

Judge Jennifer Ranji (Family Court) provided an update of the Family Court Enhancement Project. Judge Ranji stated that project that is focused on how domestic violence impacts custody decisions, was able to receive a no cost extension for one year to work on implementation of recommendations. Over the summer months, members of the Family Court Enhancement Project traveled to Brooklyn, NY, and Winnebago County (outside of Chicago) for site visits. An obstacle for Delaware implementing models from other jurisdictions is the Commissioner/Judge structure that makes it difficult for one Judge/one family. Recommendations from the two subcommittees will be finalized soon and the subcommittees will look for overlap in the recommendations. The implementation phase may include rule changes, statutory changes, or pilot projects. Also, a team from Delaware will be attending an all sites visit in New York in the upcoming weeks with the other three jurisdictions that are participating in the FCEP. Chief Judge Newell mentioned that while the project is focused on getting more information to the Judge in custody cases so they can weigh the evidence and understand the family situation, the Court is working on getting more information at mediation using a custody summary document.

Fatal Incident Review Team Report

Natasha Smith (DVCC) provided an overview of the 2016 Fatal Incident Review Team Report that was distributed to Council members. This report will be available on the DVCC website in the coming weeks.

Training Update

Pat Kwetkauskie (DVCC) noted that a summary of DVCC's training activities from May through August 2016 was included in the handout material provided to Council members.

DVCC Committee Updates:

Legislative Committee: Senator Blevins stated that the upcoming Legislative Committee meeting will take place in November 2016. Senator Blevins stated that the Committee already has legislation ready for discussion at the next meeting.

Criminal Justice: Adrienne Owen (DSP) stated that the upcoming Criminal Justice Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, September 29, 2016 at Appoquinimink State Service Center at 1pm. The Domestic Violence High Risk Team has met and is currently working on a draft Memorandum of Understanding and a referral form for the project. The team is also looking at the possibility of a pilot for the Domestic Violence High Risk Team. There was also a report on the latest data from Gary Melvin on the Lethality Assessment Program. Since 2014, Gary has conducted 47 trainings in 28 departments. In 2010, the LAP was completed 39% of the time in appropriate cases, in 2015, 71% of the time, and in 2016, it was completed 78% of the time.

Treatment: The Assessment of the Batterer's Intervention Programs is running smoothly. The assessment is currently looking at the number of sessions individuals attended vs. rates of reoffense in DELJIS. Preliminary results seem to be showing that the more sessions an individual attend, the less likely they are to reoffend. The assessment will be completed in 2017.

Aimee String will be attending the National Batterer's Intervention Conference in November and looks forward to hearing more about current national trends.

Medical: The medical committee is finishing up the revised Medical Manual and hopes to begin doing trainings on the manual in the near future.

Public Awareness: Judge Carl Danberg (Court of Common Pleas) and Pat Kwetkauskie reported on the planning of the 2016 Domestic Violence Prevention Forums. Workgroups comprised of community partners along with DVCC staff have been established in each county. Forums will be conducted in three high schools during the fall. In addition, a poster contest "*Healthy Relationships Through Your Eyes*" will be held in each of the high schools hosting a DV Prevention Forum.

Announcements:

- DV Awareness Month Proclamation Signing – October 11, 2016 at 10am (Governor's Office/Caravel State Building)
- Law Enforcement Conference – November 7, 2016 at Polytech
- Human Trafficking Conference – November 17, 2016 at Dover Downs
- Protecting Delaware's Children Conference – April 25-26, 2016 Chase Center

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 1:00 pm (Note Change of Date)